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Letter dated 20 December 2017 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011) addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011) containing an account of the Committee's activities from 1 January to 31 December 2017. The report, which was approved by the Committee, is being submitted in accordance with the note by the President of the Security Council of 29 March 1995 (S/1995/234).

I should be grateful if the present letter and the report were brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Kairat **Umarov**
Chair
Security Council Committee
established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011)

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Report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011)

I. Introduction

1. The present report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011) covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2017.

2. The Bureau of the Committee consisted of Kairat Umarov (Kazakhstan) as Chair and the representatives of the Russian Federation and Uruguay as Vice-Chairs.

II. Background

3. By its resolution 1267 (1999), the Security Council imposed limited air and financial embargoes to compel the Taliban to cease providing sanctuary and training to terrorists, including Usama bin Laden. The regime was modified in resolutions 1333 (2000) and 1390 (2002) to impose three targeted measures (an asset freeze, a travel ban and an arms embargo) against individuals and entities associated with the Taliban and Al-Qaida. Exemptions to the asset freeze and travel ban are available. On 17 June 2011, the Council unanimously adopted resolutions 1988 (2011) and 1989 (2011), by which it split the regime in two, establishing one committee for Al-Qaida and the other for the Taliban. The sanctions measures against the Taliban and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities were imposed in resolution 1988 (2011), followed by resolutions 2082 (2012), 2160 (2014) and 2255 (2015).

4. By its resolution 2255 (2015), the Security Council renewed the mandate of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team pursuant to resolutions 1526 (2004) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities until 17 December 2019. In its resolution 2255 (2015), the Council also provided for listed individuals and entities to request exemptions from the asset freeze and the travel ban through the focal point process established pursuant to resolution 1730 (2006), and requested the Secretary-General to publish the Committee's sanctions list in all official languages of the United Nations, as well as in the Dari and Pashtu languages. On 24 August 2017, the President of the Council issued a statement (S/PRST/2017/15) concluding that, after having reviewed the implementation of the measures outlined in resolution 2255 (2015), no further adjustments to the measures were necessary, and requesting the Monitoring Team to submit two annual reports, the first one by 30 April 2018.

5. Both the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011) and the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities are supported by the Monitoring Team. The Monitoring Team consisted initially of 8 experts, and the number was increased to 10 experts in resolution 2253 (2015).

6. Further background information on the Taliban sanctions regime can be found in the previous annual reports of the Committee.

III. Summary of the activities of the Committee

7. The Committee met three times in informal consultations, on 12 and 23 June and 22 December, in addition to conducting its work through written procedures. The Committee also met twice in joint informal consultations with the Committee

pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011), and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, on 23 June and 8 December.

8. During the informal consultations held on 12 June, the Committee heard a presentation by the Coordinator of the Monitoring Team on its eighth report (S/2017/409), submitted in accordance with paragraph (a) of the annex to resolution 2255 (2015), and discussed the recommendations contained therein.

9. During the informal consultations held on 23 June, the Committee heard from the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations about the threat posed by the Taliban, as well as on the progress and challenges with regard to the peace process in Afghanistan, and from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan on developments in Afghanistan.

10. Subsequently, the Committee also heard a briefing by the Special Adviser to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan on Counter-Narcotics and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Representative for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries on indirect financing sources for the Taliban and selected listed individuals and entities and the efforts of UNODC in Afghanistan.

11. During the joint informal consultations with the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities held on 23 June, the two Committees heard a briefing by the Head of the Commonwealth of Independent States Anti-Terrorism Centre on the terrorist threat in Central Asia and how Governments were cooperating to combat that threat.

12. On 29 and 30 October 2017, the Chair of the Committee and the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities visited Afghanistan, pursuant to paragraph 55 of resolution 2255 (2015) and paragraph 92 of resolution 2368 (2017), to meet with government officials. On 30 October, the Chair of the Committee also met with interlocutors from the United Nations and diplomatic missions and participated in a meeting of the informal joint working group on the sanctions regime under resolution 1988 (2011) in Kabul. On 1 and 2 November, the Chair visited Tashkent, pursuant to paragraph 92 of resolution 2368 (2017), to attend the fifth international scientific and practical conference on cooperation in combating international terrorism and extremism.

13. During the joint informal consultations held on 8 December with the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, the two Committees were briefed by the Chair on his visit to Afghanistan on 29 and 30 October 2017.

14. On 21 December, the Chair briefed the Security Council on the activities of the Committee pursuant to paragraph 56 of resolution 2255 (2015) (see S/PV.8147). On 22 December, the Chair also held an open briefing for interested Member States on the activities of the Committee.

15. During the informal consultations held on 22 December, the Committee considered its review of individuals considered reconciled by the Government of Afghanistan, of those reportedly deceased and of those entries lacking the identifiers required for the effective implementation of the measures.

16. The Committee sent 25 communications to nine Member States and other stakeholders with reference to the implementation of the sanctions measures.

IV. Exemptions

17. Exemptions to the asset freeze are contained in paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution 1452 (2002), as amended by resolution 1735 (2006), and in paragraphs 17 and 18 of resolution 2255 (2015).

18. Exemptions to the travel ban are contained in paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution 1452 (2002), as amended by resolution 1735 (2006), and in paragraphs 19 to 22 of resolution 2255 (2015).

19. The Committee did not receive any requests for exemptions to the asset freeze or travel ban.

V. Sanctions list

20. The criteria for the designation of individuals and entities as subject to the travel ban, asset freeze and arms embargo are set out in paragraphs 2 and 3 of resolution 2255 (2015). The procedures for requesting listing and delisting are described in the Committee's guidelines for the conduct of its work, and standard forms for listing and delisting are available on the Committee's website.

21. The Committee approved one delisting request and removed one individual from the sanctions list on 16 February 2017.

22. As at the end of the reporting period, there were 135 individuals and five entities on the sanctions list of the Committee.

VI. Monitoring Team

23. The Monitoring Team comprises 10 experts with broad experience in international counter-terrorism issues.

24. On 5 January 2017, in accordance with paragraph (d) of the annex to resolution 2255 (2015), the Monitoring Team submitted to the Committee, for its approval, its travel plan for the period from January to June 2017. On 17 July, also in accordance with paragraph (d) of the annex to resolution 2255 (2015), the Monitoring Team submitted to the Committee, for its approval, its planned programme of work and travel plan for the period from September to December 2017.

25. On 5 May, in accordance with paragraph (a) of the annex to resolution 2255 (2015), the Monitoring Team provided its eighth report to the Committee (S/2017/409), which was transmitted to the Security Council on 9 May and issued as a document of the Council.

26. The Monitoring Team conducted three visits to Afghanistan, one as part of the delegation accompanying the Chair on his visit in October. The Monitoring Team conducted visits to 10 other Member States to discuss with government officials, national experts and representatives of several international organizations the threat posed by Taliban affiliates. The Team also discussed measures taken by countries to implement resolution 2255 (2015). The Monitoring Team undertook the following visits under the sanctions regimes pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011) and pursuant to resolutions 1988 (2011) and 1267 (1999): Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania, in February to attend the UNODC workshop entitled "Understanding and disrupting

illicit financial flows associated with the Southern Route for opiate trafficking", to Tehran in April to meet with national authorities, to Moscow in April to participate in the Financial Action Task Force joint meeting of experts and risk assessment workshop and the sixth Moscow Conference on International Security, in June to participate in a meeting on transnational challenges and threats related to terrorist activities organized by the Collective Security Treaty Organization and in November for consultations on counter-terrorism issues at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations, to Amman in April to meet with the national technical committee of Jordan for the implementation of Security Council resolutions, to Riyadh in May to attend the ninth compliance and anti-money-laundering seminar, to Astana in August for meetings with the national authorities, to Geneva in August for informal consultations pursuant to the General Assembly resolution on improvised explosive devices, and in September to meet with members of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, to Berlin in September for the third Australia-Europe counter-terrorism dialogue, to Baku in October for the seventh regional expert consultations of representatives of the counter-terrorism units of the security agencies, intelligence services and law enforcement authorities of the Commonwealth of Independent States member States, to Slovakia in October to participate in the GLOBSEC Tatra Summit 2017, to Krasnodar, Russian Federation, in October for the sixteenth Meeting of Heads of Special Services, Security Agencies and Law Enforcement Organizations, and to Tashkent in November to attend the international conference organized by the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization on cooperation in combating terrorism and extremism, as part of the Chair's delegation.

27. The Monitoring Team held meetings with incoming members of the Security Council in order to raise awareness of the Team's mandate and work.

28. In pursuance of its mandate, the Monitoring Team, through the Secretariat, sent 237 letters to Member States, regional and international organizations, national entities and the Committee.

VII. Secretariat administrative and substantive support

29. The Security Council Affairs Division provided substantive and procedural support to the Chair and the members of the Committee. Advisory support was also provided to Member States to promote understanding of the sanctions regimes and facilitate the implementation of the sanctions measures. Induction briefings were also provided to incoming members of the Council to familiarize them with the specific issues relevant to the sanctions regime.

30. To support the Committee in its recruitment of well-qualified experts to serve on sanctions monitoring groups, teams and panels, a note verbale was sent to all Member States on 11 December to request the nomination of qualified candidates for membership in the roster of experts. In addition, a note verbale was sent to all Member States on 17 August notifying them of upcoming vacancies on the Monitoring Team and providing information on recruitment timelines, areas of expertise and pertinent requirements.

31. The Division continued to provide support to the Monitoring Team, conducting an induction for newly appointed members and providing technical assistance in the preparation of the Team's eighth report submitted in May.

32. The Monitoring Team participated in the fifth annual inter-panel coordination workshop, held in New York on 5 and 6 December, organized by the Secretariat.

33. The Secretariat continued to update and maintain the Consolidated United Nations Security Council Sanctions List and the Committee-specific sanctions lists in the six official languages and the three technical formats. Furthermore, the Secretariat implemented improvements concerning the effective utilization of and access to sanctions lists, including through the creation of links within list entries, as appropriate, to INTERPOL-United Nations Security Council Special Notices, as well as the development in English of the data model approved in 2011 by the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, as requested by the Security Council in paragraph 48 of resolution 2253 (2015).